



FI Newsletter

The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway

Fenwick Island DE 19944

Winter 2011

Greetings to All!

Fall is quickly coming to an end, and winter and the Holidays are just around the corner. Before we know it, we will be into the New Year, 2012.

Fall has been very busy in the Town of Fenwick Island. First and foremost our new Public Safety Building has progressed very quickly and is becoming the building that each of us on Council had imagined it would be. After all the years of working to make this building a reality, it is a very exciting time and well overdue. This will be a building each of us can be proud of as well as a building which will address all of our safety issues within the Town. It will house our Police Department as well as our Lifeguard staff.

The Delaware Department of Transportation has been making improvements to the main street of our town, Route One. They are repaving, adding ADA curbing on necessary corners, and improving some of our crosswalks. This is entirely a State project and will improve our Town.

The Council has been extremely busy in searching for a new Town Manager. We received approximately 70 applicants from across the country for the position. Each Council Member has reviewed each application and we have met collectively to come to a consensus of our potential interviewees. We have now started the interview process and, after completion, we will then do our final interviews. We have had well qualified applicants and are now working to find the best person who will fit our Town's needs. We are hoping to have that person in place by the end of the year.

I want to wish each of you Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy 2012. In the next few hectic weeks, take time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. Take a few moments to visit the lonely and make someone's day a little brighter through sharing the many advantages and gifts which we can provide no matter how small or large. Also keep the troops and their families in your mind and your prayers. And again, the best to you and your families.

Audrey Serio, Mayor & Council President



Groundbreaking Ceremony
September 6, 2011

Construction Begins on Fenwick Island Public Safety Building

Construction on the new Public Safety building began on September 6th, the day after Labor Day. The building is moving along rapidly thanks in part to the good weather we've had thus far this Fall. Bunting Construction, general contractor for the project, is aiming for a February 2012 completion date. Communications between the Town, Bunting Construction and our architect, French & Ryan have been excellent. This has allowed the process to move forward without delays.

The fully equipped building will be the new headquarters for the Fenwick Island Police Department. The Fenwick Island Beach Patrol will now have a meeting room, Captain's office and shower facilities for the lifeguards. This part of the building also will be used as our emergency operations center to facilitate our staff in the event of any type of emergency such as a hurricane or other storm related emergencies.

The new building is being constructed to allow for future expansion should the need arise for a second floor addition. Please feel free to stop by and view the outside of the building as it is being built. For safety reasons, access to the interior of the building is not allowed at this time.

Plans are in the works for a formal dedication of the building. Property owners and visitors will be more than welcome to tour the building when it is complete.

Gene Langan & Bill Weistling, Public Safety Building Committee



Town Manager's Report

It is my pleasure to serve as your Interim Town Manager until the Town Council makes a regular appointment to the position. Activity during this post-Summer season has lessened and most of my time has been spent following through with current projects. As you can see elsewhere in this newsletter, the solar panel photovoltaic installation on the Public Works building is complete and work is well underway on the new Public Safety building.

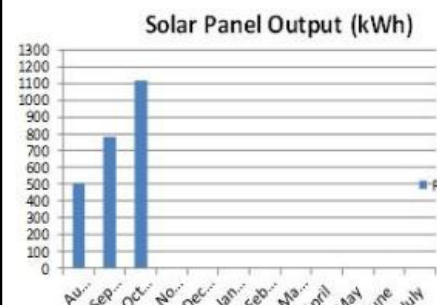
The Town received positive comments on the new mats that were installed at four beach locations. Council has expressed an interest in continuing the installation at other locations. The current mats have to be removed after the summer and also when storms threaten the shoreline. Since it takes the efforts of our Public Works staff to remove them, we are looking at various alternatives including whether other, lighter-weight mats are available. We will also be looking to see if we can reduce the cost through cooperative purchasing with other shoreline communities.

Thank you and have a happy holiday season.

Tom Wontorek, Interim Town Manager

Fenwick Island Town Hall Goes Solar

Solar panels have been installed on the roof of the Public Works Building at Town Hall. So far, the Town has realized a savings of \$816 from August through October 2011. The panels were installed using funds from a Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The Town hopes to realize substantial savings over the course of this year.



FLOOD INSURANCE Understanding the Basics

Most of you are aware that the Town of Fenwick Island is a member of the *National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)* which provides federally backed flood insurance that encourages communities to enact and enforce floodplain regulations. The *Community Rating System (CRS)* is a part of the *NFIP* and provides incentives and tools to further flood prevention practices and requirements.

I am pleased to inform all that the Town of Fenwick Island has once again been rated a Class 8 *CRS* community which provides the Town's flood insurance policy holders a 10% discount on their flood insurance premiums. To learn how you may obtain additional discounts on your flood insurance premium, please contact Pat Schuchman in Town Hall or by e-mail at pschuchman@fenwickisland.org.

The goals of the *CRS* are to recognize, encourage, and reward, by the use of flood insurance premium adjustments, community activities beyond the minimum required by the *NFIP* that reduce flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the *NFIP*, and encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

Thus, the *CRS* provides insurance premium rate reductions to policy holders in recognition that their community activities work toward these three goals of reducing flood damage, supporting the insurance part of the *NFIP*, and pursuing a broad approach to floodplain management.

Pat Schuchman, Building Official

Fenwick Island Police Department

Tips for a safer winter ...

The colder weather will be here before we know it and there are some things that we can do to minimize problems. Keep your house warm; this does not mean 70° but around 50° so that your pipes don't freeze. Turn off your water where it enters the house to avoid under the house pipes from bursting. The last thing you need is a call from us that your water has been flowing for a week!

Unplug everything to avoid lightening strikes. Put away any outside items, beach chairs, ladders, patio furniture. Don't give an open invitation to criminals. Check you locks and windows making sure they are all working.

If you live here year-round, be our eyes and ears. Report anything that looks out of the ordinary and any suspicious activity. Be a good neighbor. If you see a streetlight that is out please call us with the location so that we can report it and get it repaired as fast as possible.

Your Police Department is here to serve you but cannot do it alone. If you see or hear something that causes concern please call the station (302.539.2000) or the patrol cell phone (302.542.8793) or the Sussex County Emergency Communications (302.855.2980). For all emergencies call 911.

Let's all work together for a safe off-season!

Chief William H. Bayden



Shuffleboard League
Contact Mary Wright
302.539.6697 for information.

Congratulations Fall Champions—
Helen Nappier & Joan Strawser

Turkey Trot November 24
Contact Lori Martin at
hipaha@hotmail.com



Environmental Committee

Known as the “river rat,” the nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) has recently acquired the dubious honor of making the “Most Wanted List” of state and federal environmental officials who aim to eradicate these semi-aquatic, mostly herbivorous rodents from the Delmarva Peninsula by 2015. Originally nutria were brought into this country from South America in the 1940’s by fur dealers wanting to cash in on the lush undercoats. Since then, nutria have escaped into the wild where their colonies reproduce prolifically and destroy aquatic vegetation, especially the delicate marsh grasses supporting the life cycles of blue crabs and juvenile fish.

Nutria live in burrows near the water and can remain submerged for as long as five minutes. Sometimes mistaken for a large muskrat, the nutria resembles a big rat or a beaver with a small tail. Adults range between 11 to 20 pounds with a body length of up to 24 inches plus a 12 to 18 inch long round tail. They have coarse brown outer fur, a white patch on the muzzle and webbed hind feet. Although people are advised not to get close, these pests can also be identified by their bright orange-yellow incisor teeth.

In addition to environmental groups, other local predators are at work to keep the nutria population in check. These include coyotes, domestic dogs, foxes, great horned owls, blue herons, hawks, eagles and raccoons.

Join us at our January 19, 2012 meeting (2:30PM) for more information.

Vicki Carmean, Council Member

Charter & Ordinance Committee

Over the past two years the Charter & Ordinance Committee has worked on Town ordinances chapter by chapter to make necessary amendments to the code to reflect any changes that were needed or to clarify those that may have appeared to be unclear due to verbiage or lengthiness. During this time, code changes were approved for nearly all chapters of the Town code.

The committee has nearly completed its review of Chapter 160 (Zoning). Its goal was to review the chapter, section by section to update where necessary, add needed changes and attempt to reduce the length of some sections. After January 1, 2012 the committee will begin drafting proposed amendments to the Zoning ordinance which will then be submitted to Town Council for their review and approval.

I would like to commend the efforts of the members of the Charter & Ordinance Committee who have worked tirelessly throughout these two years to complete this extensive update of our Town’s ordinances.

Bill Weistling, Council Member

Christmas Tree Lighting



The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will take place on Friday, December 2, 2011 immediately following the Regular Council Meeting. Approximate time: 4:30 PM.

The 2012 Bonfire Calendar is now open. Reserve early to be sure you get the day you want. Contact Lynn Massey at Town Hall.



IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TOWN ELECTIONS

**ALL PERSONS WISHING TO VOTE IN GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS
MUST REGISTER WITH THE TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND**

To obtain a voter registration form, please contact Town
Hall 302.539.3011
or download a form from the Document Center
www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov



FENWICK ISLAND BEACH PATROL 2011

The summer of 2011 was another safe and successful one for the FIBP. Weather conditions were above average this summer with air and water temperatures peaking earlier than usual and surf conditions (rip currents) remaining calm during June and July and increasing during the month of August. The combination of excellent weather and warmer water resulted in increased crowds throughout the summer. Nonetheless, the guards did an outstanding job protecting our beach while enduring beach replenishment, earthquake, and hurricane issues. We continue to upgrade and implement training regimens and standards as recommended and required by the United States Lifesaving Association to ensure the finest training for our guards.




We made sure that all USLA recommendations and standards were being upheld which included more inclusive CPR, AED, and First Aid training as well as summer long training in rescues and drills. Along with the technical aspect of the training, our morning workouts were more intense and geared towards all aspects of the job. We also continued our collaboration with World Gym in Ocean View to do a "Boot Camp" workout once a week. This ensured that guards were very physically fit and was a factor in doing well at the competitions.

Our competition teams did very well once again this summer. The FIBP placed 1st in two of the six local and regional competitions (and three top 6 finishes) and was topped off by another impressive showing at the National Championship held in Cape May, N.J. Sussex County Lifesaving placed 3rd in the country establishing ourselves once again as a force to contend with. The ability to compete at this level definitely encourages the guards to work that much harder in our workouts and consequently we have very well trained lifeguards on the stand.

The Junior Lifeguard program was a huge success once again this year. Over 120 kids participated and culminated in over 35 of them competing in the Junior Lifeguard competition in Rehoboth Beach in August. The Advanced program also had a big increase with 30 participants throughout the summer.

We had an excellent and safe summer in 2011. Our staff, faced with 12 rookie lifeguards, responded to the challenge and was outstanding in all aspects of their job. I expect many to return next year. The Beach Patrol appreciates the way the Town of Fenwick supports us and I thank you for the opportunity to serve the town.

Tim Ferry, Captain

			
Town Council	Council Calendar	Residential Trash Collection Schedule	Yard Waste Recycling Begins again on April 19, 2012
Audrey Serio Mayor, President of Council aserio@fenwickisland.org Todd Smallwood Deputy Mayor tsmallwood@fenwickisland.org Diane Tingle Secretary dtingle@fenwickisland.org Gardner Bunting Treasurer gbunting@fenwickisland.org Vicki Carmean vcarmean@fenwickisland.org Bill Weistling wweistling@fenwickisland.org Gene Langan glangan@fenwickisland.org Town Manager Town Hall Phone Numbers Phone: 302.539.3011 Fax: 302.539.1305 Police Department Phone # Phone: 302.539.2000 Officer on Duty 302.542.8793 Emergency: 911	Friday, December 2, 2011 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, January 27, 2012 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, February 24, 2012 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, March 23, 2012 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, April 27, 2012 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday, May 25, 2012 • Council Meeting 3:30pm Friday June 22, 2012 • Council Meeting 3:30pm TOWN EVENTS Thursday/Friday November 24-25, 2011 • Town Hall Closed Friday and Monday December 23 & 26, 2011 • Town Hall Closed Sunday January 1, 2012 • Fenwick Freeze 10:30 AM Monday January 2, 2012 • Town Hall Closed Friday, April 27, 2012 • Arbor Day	Monday only Pick-up October 3 —April 30 Monday & Thursday Pick-up May 3 —September 27 Heavy Trash & Appliance Pick-up June 6, 7 and 8 September 5, 6 and 7	Please Remember... do not place trash or recycle containers out earlier than 24 hrs in advance and remember to put them away promptly within 12 hours after pick-up. Reminder: The FI Lions Club aluminum can recycling bins will remain at both the beach ends and behind town hall. Please continue to support their cause. 
		<u>Curbside Recycle Schedule</u> • October through April pick-ups are <u>every other Friday</u> • May–September pickup every Friday 	The Fenwick Island Town Council and Staff wish you happy holidays and a safe and prosperous new year. See you at the beach!



The Eighth Annual Fenwick Freeze

Bayard Street Beach, Fenwick Island, Delaware

January 1, 2012 @ 10:30 am

Registration 9:00 – 10:00 am

The Fenwick Freeze is a great way to welcome the New Year!
Join your family, friends and neighbors....put on your bathing suits and take the plunge!
Event will be held regardless of rain, shine, snow or sleet!

All registrants will receive a long-sleeve commemorative shirt!

Registration:

	<u>Thru 12/30/11</u>	<u>on 1/1/12</u>
1 person	\$20 each	\$25 each
2-4 people	\$16 each	\$20 each
5-8 people	\$12 each	\$15 each

How to Register:

- Now thru Dec. 22: Complete this form and mail to address below
- Dec. 29 & 30: Complete this form and take to Town Hall between the hours of 11:00am-1:00pm
(pre-registrants may also pick-up shirts on these days)
- Jan. 1: Complete form and bring to Bayard Street Beach from 9:00am -10:00 am.

Proceeds to benefit the Fenwick Island Lifeguard National Competition Fund

Mail entry form and check (made out to **FIBC [Fenwick Island Beach Committee]**) to:

The Fenwick Freeze

c/o Becka McWilliams, 927 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Printed Name	Shirt Size (S-M-L-XL)	E-mail	Signature - Acknowledging that you have read and agree to the release statement below

Release Statement:

I recognize the risks of illness and injury inherent in any exercise program. I agree to participate and assume all risks of the Fenwick Freeze Event and any related activities. In consideration of my participation in this event, I release and hold harmless the town of Fenwick Island, their affiliates, subsidiaries, principals, and directors, agents, servants, officers, employees and contractors from any and all claims, demands and causes of action of whatever nature, which I or my successors, heirs and assigns may have now or in the future in connection with my participation in this event and related activities. I agree to obey the rules of this event. I understand that there will be no refunds and the event director reserves the right to reject any entry. By signing above, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this release.